

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the coagulation inhibiting substance not interfering in the transformation prothrombin/active meizothrombin or Mtdesfgl, resp., is selected from the group "calcium-complex forming agents, heparin, heparinoids, anti-thrombin III, protein C, fibrin polymerization inhibiting substances and mixtures of such substances".

4. (Amended) A method according to ~~one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~ 3, wherein the substance dissociating prothrombin into meizothrombin or Mtdesfgl, resp., is selected from the group of the snake venoms or snake venom fractions.

5. (Amended) A method according to ~~one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~ 4, wherein the substance dissociating prothrombin into meizothrombin or Mtdesfgl, resp., is ecarin.

6. (Amended) A method according to ~~one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~ 5, wherein the chromogenic substrate dissociable by active meizothrombin or Mtdesfgl, resp., releases p-nitroanilin under dissociation, and the light absorption measurement is performed at 405 nm.

7. (Amended) A method according to ~~one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~ 6, wherein in step c) a first absorption or emission measurement after 0 - 100 s, preferably 0 - 50, most preferably 5 - 15 s, and a second one after another 10 - 1,000 s, preferably 50 - 500s, most preferably 150 - 300 s, measured from the addition of the substance dissociating prothrombin into meizothrombin or Mtdesfgl, resp., are performed.

8. (Amended) A method according to ~~one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~ 7, wherein the thrombin inhibitor is hirudin, a hirulog or a synthetic thrombin inhibitor.

11. (Amended) A test kit according to claim 9-~~or~~10, wherein the kit components are separated from each other but provided in a single test kit package.

12. (Amended) A test kit according to claim 9-~~or~~10, wherein as an optional additional kit component, a solution with prothrombin is provided.

13. (Amended) Thrombin inhibitors, which are available by the following steps:

- A) elements of a group of prospective thrombin inhibitors are submitted subsequently or separately and simultaneously in a given and preferably identical concentration to a method according to ~~one of~~ claims 2-~~to~~8,
- B) the reduction of the light absorption or light emission per time unit is determined for each prospective thrombin inhibitor and compared to the light absorption or light emission per time unit of a given, preferably identical concentration of hirudin determined under identical conditions,
- C) those prospective thrombin inhibitors are selected the reduction of the light absorption or light emission of which per time unit corresponds to at least 10 % of the corresponding reduction when hirudin is used.